

Message Text

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PAGE 01 GENEVA 05253 080608Z
ACTION ACDA-12

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C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 05253

USUN NEW YORK FOR AMB FISHER

E.O.11652:GDS
TAGS: PARM UR US
SUBJECT: US-USSR CHEMICAL WEAPONS NEGOTIATIONS; ROUND
SEVEN: DRAFTING GROUP MEETING NO.10, APRIL 6, 1978

CW MESSAGE NO.39

REFS: (A) GENEVA 5063;(B)STATE 77166; (C)GENEVA 2079
1. SUMMARY: TENTH DRAFTING GROUP MEETING WAS HELD
THURSDAY AFTERNOON, APRIL 6, 1978. THE SOVIET EXPERTS
RESPONDED TO THE US APRIL 4 QUESTIONS ON FIELD EXERCISES
(REF A), AND THEN ASKED SEVERAL QUESTIONS, PRIMARILY
RELATED TO THE US POSITION ON RIOT CONTROL CHEMICALS. THE
US EXPERTS RESPONDED TO THE SOVIET QUESTIONS AND MADE A
BRIEF PRESENTATION, DRAWN FROM THE APPROVED GUIDANCE
PAPER (REF B) ON THE CONTENT OF THE PROPOSED DECLARATION
OF FACILITIES. US EXPERTS MENTIONED THE NEED TO SET A
CUTOFF DATE FOR OLDER FACILITIES BUT DID NOT SPECIFY
ANY DATE. QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ARE SUMMARIZED IN
PARAS 3-6 BELOW. AT SOVIET REQUEST, A PLENARY MEETING
WAS SCHEDULED FOR TUESDAY, APRIL 11. END SUMMARY.
2. SOVIET EXPERT CHUGUNOV RESPONDED TO US APRIL 4
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PAGE 02 GENEVA 05253 080608Z

QUESTIONS ON FIELD EXERCISES BY SAYING THAT THE SOVIETS
UNDERSTOOD THE TERM "FIELD EXERCISE" IN THE SAME WAY AS
THE US. REGARDING US REQUEST FOR INFORMATION ON INTENDED
NATURE AND SCALE OF FIELD EXERCISES FOR PROTECTIVE
PURPOSES, HE STATED SUCH INFORMATION WAS RELATED TO
GENERAL COMBAT TRAINING AND, THEREFORE, NOT RELATED TO
THE SUBJECT MATTER OF THE NEGOTIATIONS. HE SAID THAT IF

A STATE DECLARED THE TYPES AND QUANTITIES OF CHEMICALS FOR PROTECTIVE PURPOSES THEN THAT STATE SHOULD BE FREE TO USE THOSE CHEMICALS AT ITS OWN DISCRETION.

3. SOVIET EXPERT SOKOLSKI ASKED WHEN THE US WOULD PRESENT SPECIFIC LANGUAGE ON IRRITANTS AND ON A COMMON CEILING FOR PERMITTED QUANTITIES OF CHEMICALS FOR PROTECTIVE PURPOSES WHICH COULD BE USED IN FORMULATING THE PROVISIONS OF A JOINT INITIATIVE. AKALOVSKY (US DEL ACTING HEAD) POINTED OUT THE DIFFICULTY OF DRAFTING SUCH LANGUAGE IN THE ABSENCE OF A SOVIET REACTION TO US PROPOSALS ON THESE POINTS.

4. SOKOLSKI ALSO ASKED FOR A RESPONSE TO A PREVIOUS SOVIET QUESTION ON PREVENTING THE PROLIFERATION OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS THROUGH STATES PARTIES' TRANSFERS OF PERMITTED IRRITANTS TO NON-STATE PARTIES. AKALOVSKY REITERATED THE US FEBRUARY 2 RESPONSE (REF C) THAT IRRITANTS COVERED BY THE CONVENTION WOULD OBVIOUSLY BE LIMITED BY ITS NON-TRANSFER PROVISION. IRRITANTS NOT COVERED BY THE CONVENTION, HE SAID, WOULD COME UNDER THE STRINGENT US EXPORT CONTROLS AND WOULD NOT BE APPROVED FOR TRANSFER OR SALE UNLESS CONSISTENT WITH OUR POLICY ON LEGITIMATE USES.

5. IN RESPONSE TO SOKOLSKI'S REQUEST FOR CLARIFICATION OF THE US POSITION ON DECLARATION OF RIOT CONTROL CHEMICALS, CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 GENEVA 05253 080608Z

AKALOVSKY INDICATED THAT TYPES AND QUANTITIES OF ALL CHEMICALS FOR DOMESTIC RIOT CONTROL OR LAW ENFORCEMENT WOULD BE DECLARED, IRRESPECTIVE OF THEIR TOXICITY.

6. AT SOVIET REQUEST, A PLENARY MEETING WAS SCHEDULED FOR TUESDAY, APRIL 11, SO THAT THE SOVIET DEL COULD BEGIN PRESENTING ITS POSITION. VANDEN HEUVEL

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